/250 cont./

683 Since the Meau do not believe that black magic is prac-
754 ticed among their tribesmen, there is no punishment for it. Outlawing is likewise unknown.

692 Offenses against custom are judged by the village chief
622 or the great chief. Crimes, which very rarely occur among the
634 Meau, are judged by the great chief. In such cases the village
[689] elders and the village chief appear as examining magistrates.

Dhuraratsadorn (1), too, points out that homicide and

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1. Page 171.

crimes of violence are for the most part unknown within the family community, which he designates erroneously as "clan." He assumes that robbery might occur if it becomes known that a member of the community has received a large sum of money through the sale of opium or the like. The author then continues by saying that this offense had never occurred in the district of San Mahapon with which he is familiar, but characteristically he explains this not on the basis of the morality of the
[454] Meau, but by their custom of not carrying any money with them, much less keeping it in their houses, but of carefully hiding it somewhere. I was unable to confirm the custom of "money-hiding" among the Meau, but I did find it among the Lahu; hence I assume that there is some confusion on the part of the author.

682 The punishment for murder in connection with robbery or homicide is execution. It is reported of some Meau tribes in China (2) that buffalo were paid as a fine for homicide. Only

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2. Eberhard, II, p. 252.

685 the great chief, however, can give the sentence. The same
439 punishment befalls anyone who commits simple robbery or theft from traveling merchants. The harsh appraisal of this offense goes back to the fact that the traveling merchants, all of them Chinese, bring wares that are important to the Meau, but those areas in which there is danger of robbery and theft would be avoided.